

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY

AUG 1 1919

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JULY 26, 1919

Fruits in the Arboretum. The ripening and ripe fruits of many hardy trees and shrubs are as beautiful and often more beautiful than their flowers; and such plants have a double value for the decoration of northern gardens, especially the gardens of the northern United States. For the climate of this part of the world is suited for the abundant production and high coloring of the fruits of our native trees and shrubs and of those of northeastern Asia; and European plant lovers who come to the Arboretum in summer and autumn are always astonished and delighted with the abundance and beauty of the fruits they find here. The list of trees and shrubs with handsome fruits which can be grown in New England contains many species of Holly, Ribes, Viburnum, Cotoneaster, Cornus, Malus, Sorbus, Amelanchier, Aronia, Rosa, Prunus, Rhus, Crataegus, Ampelopsis, Berberis, Magnolia, Acer, Acanthopanax and Lonicera. On the Red and White Maples the fruit ripens early in May, and until the first of November there will be a succession here of ripening fruits. The fruits of a few trees and shrubs will remain on the branches and keep much of their brilliancy until early April, and there is therefore only a few weeks during the year when one cannot find showy fruits in the Arboretum.

Honeysuckles as fruit plants. It is not perhaps generally realized that the fruit of several Honeysuckles is more beautiful than their flowers, and that among the species which are bushes and not vines are plants perfectly suited to this northern climate which are not surpassed in the abundance and brilliancy of their fruits by any plants which ripen their fruit in summer. The Honeysuckles which produce the earliest and the showiest fruit are *Lonicera tatarica* and some of its hybrids. The Tartarian Honeysuckle, which is a native of western

Siberia and central Asia, is an old inhabitant of gardens and one of the best shrubs for cold countries, for it can support without injury the excessive cold of the long winter and the burning sun of the short summer of the north fatal to all but a few of the plants which decorate the gardens of more temperate regions. It cannot be too often repeated that the Tartarian Honeysuckle and its hybrids are large, fast-growing plants, that they only thrive in rich, well-drained soil, and that they can only show their real beauty when allowed sufficient space for free development of their branches. Twenty-five feet between the plants does not give them too much room. There are many varieties of the Tartarian Honeysuckle in the Arboretum collection varying in the color of their flowers and in the color of their fruits. The varieties of *L. tatarica* which have this year the handsome fruit are the var. *rosea* with scarlet fruit and var. *lutea* with bright yellow fruit. The fruits, however, of some of the hybrids are more beautiful than those of any of the varieties of the species. As fruiting plants the best of these hybrids which are in the Arboretum are *Lonicera bella*, *L. muendeniense*, *L. notha*, and *L. amoena*. *L. bella* was raised in the Botanic Garden at Petrograd and is believed to be the product of a cross between *L. tatarica* and the Japanese *L. Morrowii*. There are several varieties of this hybrid differing in the color of their flowers. They are large, free-flowering plants with large, lustrous red fruit. *L. muendeniense*, which originated in the Botanic Garden at Munden, is probably of the same parentage as *L. bella* altered by the cross with another species. It is a very vigorous plant with large, lustrous, orange-red fruit. *L. notha*, which is believed to be a hybrid of *L. tatarica* and *L. Ruprechtiana*, is another large, vigorous, fast-growing plant with lustrous orange-red fruit. *L. notha* and *L. muendeniense* as fruit plants are the handsomest of the large-growing Bush Honeysuckles with dark green leaves and orange-red fruits. More beautiful when in flower is the hybrid of *L. tatarica* with the Persian *L. Korolkovii* which is called *L. amoena*. This is a smaller plant than the other hybrids of the Tartarian Honeysuckle with pale gray-green leaves, small pink flowers and small red fruits. When it is in bloom this plant is considered by many persons the most beautiful *Lonicera* in the collection. The Japanese *L. Morrowii* is more beautiful now when it is covered with its large orange-red fruits than it was when the yellow and white flowers were open in early spring. This is a round-topped shrub, much broader than high, with gray-green foliage, and long lower branches which cling close to the ground. When it can have sufficient room in which to grow this is one of the handsomest of the Honeysuckles and one of the best shrubs introduced into the United States by the Arboretum. There are two hybrids of this species in the collection, *L. minutiflora* with small, translucent, yellow fruit, and *L. muscaviensis* with large bright scarlet fruit. They are large, hardy and fast-growing plants. Very different are the bright blue fruits of the different geographical forms of the widely distributed *Lonicera coerulea* which are now ripe. These fruits are beautiful but they are a good deal covered by the leaves, and the plants are not as conspicuous at this season of the year as the Tartarian and several of the other Bush Honeysuckles. The bright red fruit of *Lonicera trichosanthes* is conspicuous in the last weeks of July. This is a shrub now three or four feet tall in the Arboretum, with erect stems, large yellow and white flowers, and fruits rather larger than those of the Tartarian

Honeysuckle. It is a native of northern and central China and promises to be a useful addition to summer fruiting shrubs. The fruits of two western American Bush Honeysuckles, *L. involucrata* and its varieties and *L. Ledebourii* ripen in July and are handsome and peculiar, for the large, lustrous black berries rise from the much enlarged bractlets of the flowers which are now bright red and much reflexed. One of the most interesting of these plants is the variety *serotina* of *Lonicera involucrata*. This has bright yellow flowers flushed with scarlet which do not open until July; the enlarged bractlets of this Colorado plant are spreading, not reflexed.

The tree with the showiest fruits in the Arboretum in July is the Tartarian Maple (*Acer tataricum*) which is an early-flowering, very hardy small tree from southeastern Europe and western Asia. The wings of the fruit, which is now fully grown, are bright red and their beauty is heightened by the contrast of the dark green leaves. The female plants of the so-called Mountain Holly (*Nemopanthus mucronata*) are handsome in July when their rose-red berrylike fruits are ripe. *Nemopanthus*, which belongs to the Holly Family, consists of a single species which is common in cool moist woods in the north-eastern United States and eastern Canada, and is a wide round-topped shrub with erect stems covered with gray bark, thin pale green leaves and inconspicuous flowers. It has taken kindly to cultivation in the Arboretum where there are a number of plants in the Holly Collection in the rear of the Horsechestnut Collection. The snow-white fruits of the red and yellow-flowered forms of the North American *Cornus stolonifera* are now ripe. Very beautiful in winter from the bright coloring of its stems and branches, this Cornel is equally beautiful in July and August when it is covered with its large and abundant clusters of fruit. A garden form of the Old World *Cornus alba* (var. *Rosenthalii*) is fruiting abundantly this year and promises to be a valuable addition to July and August fruiting shrubs.

Some July Flowering Trees and Shrubs. Among the Lindens the last to flower are the small-leaved European *Tilia cordata* and its varieties. The handsomest of these is the var. *cordifolia* which differs from the type in its larger leaves and rather larger flowers. The Arboretum specimen is a shapely tree which this year when in flower has been more conspicuous than any Linden-tree in the Collection. The Japanese Clethra (*C. barbinervis*) is in flower about two weeks earlier than the native *C. alnifolia*. The Japanese species is a larger plant than *C. alnifolia* and in Massachusetts has grown ten or fifteen feet high and nearly as much through. The foliage is of a lighter green than that of the American plant; the flowers are less crowded in the racemes and lack the odor which makes *C. alnifolia* one of the most delightful of summer-flowering shrubs. In the Arboretum plants of the Japanese Clethra have so far escaped the attacks of red spiders which often disfigure here those of *C. alnifolia*.

Indigofera. Five species of this genus of the Pea Family are now blooming in the Arboretum. They are small plants with handsome flowers in terminal racemes, well suited to decorate a garden border. The three species with pink flowers, *I. Kirilowii*, a native of northern China, Manchuria and Korea, *I. Potaninii* and *I. amblyantha* are perfectly hardy and the last will continue to open its small flowers on the

lengthening racemes until October. The other species, *I. Gerardiana* and *I. decora*, are killed to the ground every winter, but like herbaceous plants produce new stems in the spring which never fail to flower during the summer. *I. decora* is a native of southern China, and in the Arboretum the flowers are pure white. *I. Gerardiana*, which is a native of the northwestern Himalayas, has gray-green foliage and rose-purple flowers. This is the least beautiful of the five species now growing in the Arboretum. The collection still needs *I. hebeptala*, another Himalayan plant which is rarely seen in English gardens. It has red flowers, in elongated racemes, and, judging by the picture of it which has been published is a handsome plant. This and another red-flowered Himalayan species, *I. atropurpurea*, are desired by the Arboretum.

Rubus lacinatus. This European plant, which produces long red stems and deeply divided leaflets, is one of the handsomest of the Brambles and is well suited to cover banks or to train over fences and arbors. It is now in flower in the Shrub Collection. In England it is valued for its fruit which is described as "one of the finest blackberries in size and flavor." In competition with some of the American blackberries it will not probably find much favor in this country. There are two double-flowered Brambles in the collection which are also in bloom and which are also important ornamental plants, also well suited to cover arbors and fences. They produce in a season stems from ten to twenty feet long and their white or pink flowers in long, many-flowered crowded clusters resemble miniature Roses. These plants are called *Rufus ulmifolius* var. *bellidiflorus* and *R. thyrsoides flore pleno*, and seem to be little known in the United States.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides must be included among the shrubs which flower in July. This beautiful climbing plant has not had a successful career in the Arboretum. Seeds were first sent here in December, 1876, from Sapporo in northern Japan with those of *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Syringa japonica*, *Phellodendron sachalinense* and other interesting plants. A large number of *Schizophragma* plants were raised and sent to other American and European gardens. Those planted in the Arboretum never flourished, and soon disappeared, probably because the right place was not found for them. Plants raised later also disappeared; and it is a matter of some satisfaction at the Arboretum that this beautiful plant, after forty-three years of failure, is at last established on the Administration Building where it has flowered this year for the first time. It clings as firmly to the brick wall as *Hydrangea petiolaris*; the leaves are smaller, more circular in shape, more coarsely toothed and of a darker color. When in flower *Schizophragma* is more interesting, although not as showy as the *Hydrangea*, for instead of the surrounding ring of neutral flowers there are only two neutral flowers to each of the divisions of the large compound inflorescence; these neutral flowers are white, ovate, often an inch or more long, and hang on long slender stems an inch in length. *Schizophragma* appears to be an exceedingly rare plant in American gardens in which *Hydrangea petiolaris* often passes for it.

These Bulletins will now be discontinued until the autumn.